

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 072399 TOSEC 030230
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S E C R E T STATE 072399 TOSEC 030230

EXDIS FOR THE SECRETARY FROM IO-MAYNES

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 2433 ACTION USUN NY INFO SECSTATE
PARIS, LONDON, BONN DATED MAR 30:

QTE: S E C R E T GENEVA 2433

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNOG, SF, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD UN ACTION ON NAMIBIA

1. RENE DE SAINT LEGIER, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY, TOOK OPPORTUNITY DURING GENEVA GROUP MEETING
TO EXPLAIN TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE MAYNES BACKGROUND
BEHIND DECISION OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER TO SEND FORMAL NOTE TO
THE SECRETARY REGARDING PENDING UN ACTIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRIC.
ACCORDING LEGIER, NOTE STIMULATED BY FRENCH FEARS THAT U.S.
CONSIDERING CHAPTER VII ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE OF
SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNAL SITUATION. REGARDING FRANCE'S OWN
ATTITUDE ON CHAPTER VII, LEGIER EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD "VERY
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PAGE 02 STATE 072399 TOSEC 030230

PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS." FRANCE STRONGLY OPPOSED
CHAPTER VII ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. WITH REGARD TO NAMIBIA,
FRANCE WAS "NOT TO BE MILITANT" AGAINST CHAPTER VII. IT CLEARLY
REPEAT CLEARLY PREFERRED TO AVOID CHAPTER VII BUT ACCORDING TO
LEGIER "IF U.S. AND BRITISH EVOLVE WE WILL EVOLVE ALSO" BECAUSE
FRANCE DID NOT WISH TO "STAND ALONE". LEGIER STRESSED THAT
FRENCH VIEWS ON CHAPTER VII AND NAMIBIA CONCERNED ONLY AN ARMS

EMBARGO AND NOT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. MAYNES EXPLAINED U.S. POSITION ON THESE ISSUES SET FORTH IN SECRETARY'S REPLY TO FRENCH NOTE.

2. LEGIER COMMENTED THAT DRAFT DECLARATIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA TO WHICH FRANCE AGREED WAS MAJOR TURN IN WEST'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA. WITHOUT CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA, CAUSE OF ACTIONS WHICH DECLARATIONS WOULD SET IN MOTION COULD ONLY RESULT IN STEADILY ESCALATING PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA INCLUDING ACTIONS BY UN. LEGIER SAID THAT THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD RAISE SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WITH THE SECRETARY IN PARIS UPON THE LATTER'S RETURN THROUGH EUROPE FROM MOSCOW. SORENSON UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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